

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> March 19 2007	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sports
<b>Report title:</b>		Addendum to "Relocation of Reference Library"	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		East Walworth/Faraday/Newington	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Environment and Housing	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Further to the report on the "Relocation of the reference library" dated November 21 2006 and further consultation as listed below, the following extra recommendations are made to the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport:
  - a. That work being undertaken by officers to investigate options for the future use of Walworth Town Hall and Newington Library as a single unit, including how to make best use of all space available and to extend and improve services, is noted, and that officers report back to the Executive Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport on their findings.
  - b. That recommendation 1 of the original report dated November 21 2006 be amended to read "As an interim arrangement, the ground floor of Newington Library is refurbished, with extra space opened up for public use and additional study spaces provided, that the reference library is relocated to this space and that the services is accessible to all."

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In addition to the work referred to in the IDM report "Relocating Newington Reference Library", further consultation has now taken place as set out in this report.
3. A pack of information including detailed costs for lift options and an updated question and answer sheet was mailed out on January 3<sup>rd</sup> to 590 Southwark residents who had signed the campaign group petition and had provided accurate and legible contact details; all Tenants and Residents Associations in the Walworth Community Council area, Community Council Members and Simon Hughes MP. Recipients were asked to send in any new queries, not already covered, by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007.
4. 18 letters were returned by the Post Office marked "not known at this address" or "gone away". Seven letters were received in response to the mail out by January 15<sup>th</sup>, none of which raised new issues.
5. Two site meetings have been held with members of the campaign group, one at Dulwich Library on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and another at Newington Library on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss technical issues regarding the lift options. The Library Service Manager and the Strategy

Manager from Southwark Building Design Services (SBDS) attended both meetings to address concerns and give advice.

6. The campaign group are of the opinion that a platform lift could be an appropriate solution to improving access at Newington, but they have been advised by the Strategy Manager from SBDS that Building Control, Fire Regulations and considerations relating to the listed status of the building have to be addressed in assessing the viability of any lift scheme. There are also height and reliability considerations to be taken into account when installing a platform lift. We are advised that this is not a suitable solution for Newington.
7. Since the Council Assembly in December 2006, the Executive Member has received further representations from Ward Councillors and from Simon Hughes MP, and as a result of this, officers are now looking into the future use of the Walworth Town Hall and Newington Library and how to make best use of all the space available in the complex. Officers will report back to the Executive Member and findings will be taken into consideration for the future planning of all services involved in this site. It was not possible to pursue this option previously as the Council was awaiting a decision from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) regarding the Southwark Discovery Centre bid for the old Town Hall. The bid has not been successful which opens up the opportunity to reconsider use of the two buildings.
8. It is now proposed that the reference library be relocated to the ground floor as an interim measure, enabling the work referred to at point 7 to be undertaken, whilst at the same time ensuring access to the reference service for all customers.

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Gill Davies – Strategic Director of Environment and Housing	
<b>Report Author</b>	Adrian Whittle	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	March 19 2007	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
<b>Head of Finance</b>	No	No
<b>Borough Solicitor</b>	No	No
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date sent to Constitutional Team</b>	March 19 2007	